



# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



October 20, 2009, WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a continued effort to bring news and relevant information about our federal government back to his home district in Los Angeles, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, brings you "The Becerra Bulletin," an e-newsletter filled with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discussion about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

## YOUNG AMERICANS NEED HEALTH COVERAGE



Young people are the most likely group of Americans to be uninsured, unable to afford coverage or not offered health care through their employers. In fact, nearly half of young adults went without health coverage at some point over the past two years. Here are the sobering facts:

- 46.8% of Americans ages 18 to 34 went without health insurance at some point between 2007 and 2008
- Only 53% of Americans ages 19 to 29 get coverage through their jobs
- Two out of three uninsured adults ages 19 to 29 report forgoing necessary care because of costs

And while they are generally healthier than older Americans, one unexpected illness or injury can quickly send an uninsured young person deep into long-term medical debt. Providing affordable health insurance options—including a public option—to all Americans, young and old, is not only the right thing to do, it will bring down the cost of coverage for everyone, provide families with peace of mind and ensure a healthier America.

[America's Affordable Health Choices Act](#) (H.R. 3200), the reform bill Democratic leaders in the House and I support, provides young adults with affordable, quality health insurance, including a convenient on-line marketplace to help them compare and shop for the best plan.

In addition to providing health insurance options, H.R. 3200 will lower costs for young adults by offering free preventative care and placing a cap on what insurance companies can force you to pay in out-of-pocket expenses, co-pays and deductibles.

An all too common reason why young people go without health insurance is that they are booted off their parents' plans when they turn 19 or graduate from college. Our bill will help over one in three uninsured young Americans by allowing them to remain on their parents' health plan until their 27th birthday.

As young Americans start their careers and take risks in the job market they should not have to put their health at risk too. Our bill offers health insurance to those without job-based coverage and provides premium assistance to those who still can't afford it. These provisions will enable young Americans to change jobs, career paths or start their own businesses without having to worry whether or not they will be insured.

Now that all congressional committees with jurisdiction have passed a version of a reform bill we are closer than ever to enacting meaningful reform to our broken health insurance system. [Click here](#) to learn more about America's Affordable Health Choices Act and listen to my recent Telephone Town Halls and interviews on health care reform.

**Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California**

**Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus**

Committee on Ways and Means

Subcommittee on Oversight, Subcommittee on Health & Subcommittee on Social Security

Committee on Budget

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